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# Regional Council Activity Report

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October 26, 2005



## Executive Director's Report

As we celebrate the anniversary of the successful passage of Proposition 400 on November 4<sup>th</sup>, we are on the verge of implementing the Regional Transportation Plan. When the tax extension begins in January 2006, we will have years of planning and preparation initiated to ensure that the implementation of the Plan is seamless and immediate. In fact, next month, the Management Committee and Regional Council will receive the Annual Report on the Implementation of Proposition 400, during which MAG will report on the progress of all modes funded within the Plan.

The RTP is a sizeable plan to deliver. In the first five years, freeways and highways represent a \$2.7 billion program—which is more than double what we spent in the last five years. This does not count the implementation of the regional bus system by Valley Metro and the 20-mile rail line construction by Valley Metro Rail.

This is a challenging task. Recently, the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) shared with the Transportation Policy Committee some of the current issues it is facing with material and labor shortages and rising prices that are influenced by national events, making it more difficult for local contractors to bid competitively on large construction projects.

To address this challenge, it is important that the partnership we created in building the Plan with the business community be continued. To ensure delivery of the Plan we need to partner with the construction industry and ADOT to examine possible improvements that could assist in the delivery of projects. These improvements would also be beneficial to cities, towns and the county who are facing construction issues in this changing economy.

As we stated in developing the Plan, it was a new way of doing business. This same spirit needs to be continued to be successful in delivering the Plan. We will keep you informed as we work with our many partners in this process. **For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.**

## **Regional Council Meeting Report for October 26, 2005**



### **Action Items**

#### **Arterial Life Cycle Program Approved**

The Regional Council approved the 20-year Arterial Life Cycle Program, with the understanding that in the future MAG will work closely to coordinate cash flow with individual projects. The overarching goals of the Life Cycle Program are to keep costs and revenues in balance and to deliver all of the Proposition 400 arterial street projects in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The Regional Transportation Plan identified arterial projects by five-year phases to be funded from the sales tax extension and MAG federal funds. The Life Cycle Program is a 20-year schedule of projects outlining the year of project design, right of way acquisition and construction—including any project advancements, deferrals or exchanges. **For more information, please contact Eric Anderson, MAG Transportation Director, (602) 254-6300.**

#### **Workforce Housing Task Force Resolution**

The Regional Council approved a draft resolution to indicate support of efforts to increase the supply of housing for the workforce in the MAG region. The resolution includes a call to collaborate with stakeholders regarding potential policy measures to address the workforce housing strategies.

**For more information, please contact Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

#### **I-10 Study Approved**

The Regional Council approved a budget amendment of \$500,000 to pay for a regional study designed to preserve and protect Interstate 10 in western Maricopa County generally west of the White Tank Mountains in the Hassayampa Valley. The purpose of the regional framework study is to develop a roadway framework plan for connections to the Interstate and other regional roadways, including US 60/Grand Avenue, State Route 85, Bell Road, and the Loop 303 Estrella freeway. The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the Federal Highway Administration, as well as municipalities in the area, have expressed concerns about the number of requests for new interchanges along I-10 and the lack of regional connections between the Hassayampa Valley

and other portions of the metropolitan area. The study will look at ways to address the traffic needs for huge developments that are planned west of the White Tank Mountains. Along with MAG, funding partners for the study include ADOT, Maricopa County, Buckeye, Goodyear and Surprise.

**For more information, please contact Bob Hazlett, Senior MAG Engineer, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Safety Plan Approved**

The MAG Regional Council voted to approve a new MAG Strategic Transportation Safety Plan. A Technical Advisory Committee for Transportation Safety was formed in 2004. The first goal of the new committee was to prepare a safety plan. The finalization of the plan by MAG comes on the heels of a statewide safety plan approved by the Governor's Traffic Safety Advisory Council. The MAG strategic plan is closely aligned with the objectives in the state plan, with additional emphasis in safety areas within the MAG region. It is anticipated that the new federal transportation reauthorization, SAFETEA-LU, will provide more resources for transportation safety improvements.

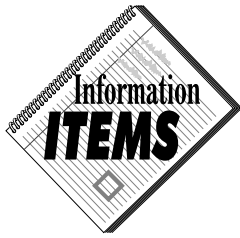
**For more information, please contact Sarath Joshua, MAG ITS and Safety Program Manager, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Other Actions**

In other actions, the Regional Council approved spending \$9.5 million to pay for rubberized asphalt paving on 6.5 miles of Loop 202 from Van Buren Street to Alma School. It also approved the following: adding a representative of Valley Metro Rail to serve on the Transportation Review Committee; approval of a prioritized list of proposed PM-10 certified street sweeper projects for FY 2006 and retaining the prioritized list for additional air quality funds that might become available; and the implementation of a new unified regional logo incorporating the tagline, "On the Move: Partners in Progress." The logo is shown below.

**For more information, please contact Kelly Taft, MAG Communications Manager, (602) 254-6300.**





## **Information Items**

### **Early Input Received on Transportation**

As part of its four-phase public involvement process, MAG recently completed its Early Phase input opportunity. Opportunities for comment included MAG policy committees, a Stakeholders Open House and Public Meeting, a Transportation Fair, and a number of other special events. A report was provided to the Regional Council summarizing questions and comments received during the phase. The report is available online at [www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=5286](http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/detail.cms?item=5286).

**For more information, please contact Jason Stephens, MAG Public Involvement Planner, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Update on 2005 Census Survey**

The 2005 Census Survey is entering the telephone and personal visit follow-up phase, and residents are being encouraged to participate in order to help their communities receive their adequate distribution of state-shared revenues. A total of 114,000 surveys were mailed Sept. 1, 2005, with a second round of questionnaires sent September 22, 2005 to nonrespondents. The mid-decade census is being conducted to capture rapidly growing population figures. The count is important to communities because cities and towns receive state-shared revenues based on population. Estimates for the percentage of personal visits that will be needed to complete the survey have been revised from 25 percent to about 36 percent, due to a fewer number of successful telephone follow-up calls than originally projected. This is expected to increase follow-up costs, but due to cost savings in other areas, the Census Bureau has expressed confidence that the 2005 Census Survey could be conducted within the original cost estimate of \$7.7 million.

**For more information, please contact Heidi Pahl, MAG Census Survey Coordinator, (602) 254-6300.**

### **Domestic Violence Awareness Month Activities**

During October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the MAG Regional Domestic Violence Council has undertaken several efforts and studies to raise awareness about domestic violence and assess resources and needs. The Council has been working on a number of projects to offer tools for prevention and intervention. Tools include training materials for employers, physicians and nurses; publications for children, teens, and adults; and studies to provide statistically reliable data about the prevalence of abuse, the victims' needs,

and the public's level of support and awareness. In May, the Council partnered with the Morrison Institute on Public Policy at Arizona State University to commission a public opinion survey on domestic violence. Among the findings were that 72 percent of Valley residents consider domestic violence to be a major problem in Maricopa County, with 40 percent reporting that they or someone they know has been a victim of domestic violence. MAG also presented two maps prepared by the Victim Services Subcommittee and MAG staff. These maps show roughly where shelters are located in relation to existing bus routes and in relation to projected areas of urban concentration in the year 2020.

**For more information, please contact Amy St. Peter, MAG Human Services Manager, (602) 254-6300.**



## **Upcoming Events**

### **Next Regional Council Meeting**

The next meeting of the MAG Regional Council is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2005 at the MAG Offices, 302 N. 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix. Agenda items are expected to include a consultant selection for the MAG Human Services and Senior Transportation Assessment and Coordination Project; requested changes to the federal functional classification of roads; a request by Gila Bend to utilize the HURF exchange mechanism; conformity consultation; approval of a MAG 208 Water Quality Management Plan Amendment for the City of Glendale; proposed revisions to the MAG Standard Specifications and Details for Public Works Construction; the annual report on the implementation of Proposition 400; discussion on the cost estimation process for freeway projects; and a discussion on the status of freeway projects by corridor.

**For more information, please contact Dennis Smith, MAG Executive Director, (602) 254-6300.**